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THE 16-INCH SHELL

A sixteen-inch shell from one of the monster new naval guns was fired at an armor-plated target at Indian Head. It tore through the target and a sand hill in the rear, and then ripped through a house that was not suspected of being in the danger zone. Nobody was hurt, but the house was sadly the worse for wear. It was the first sixteen-inch gun ever fired in America, and its performance was sensational. The newspapers will have to print pictures of it, and there will be endless discussion of what that sort of guns and shells can do.

At least it reminds very directly and specifically of the fact that half the world is spending all its time and energy and money experimenting with that sort of toys. A few guns of that kind would make Washington a waste in a few hours; they have done it for other towns, across the water. It isn't particularly harmful to be reminded of some things that we are missing these times.

"BILLY" MASON COMING BACK

For the sake of the gayety of the nations, and particularly of this nation and this immediate section thereof, satisfaction must be entertained over the nomination and probable election of the Hon. William E. Mason as Congressman-at-large from Illinois. It is now thirteen years since the inimitable Mason retired from the Senate. In years he is not so young as he used to be; otherwise he will never be anything but young. He started in life young and never recovered. He is in politics as a member of the Illinois legislature at twenty-nine; since then he has been assemblyman and State senator, Congressman twice, Senator from 1897 to 1903, and latterly has practiced law. He was about due for another turn in politics, and here he is "in our midst."

There's a place waiting for "Billy" Mason; a bigger one even than when he left, for the touch of humor has pathetically gone from the halls of Congress in recent time. Who is there can entertain and instruct as Doliver and Depew used to do it, and as Cox did before them? The man with real humor always has it associated with a fund of very usable wisdom; and "Billy" Mason is inspired with very real humor. May he not have outgrown it by the time, with the ripened experience of his now well-nigh seventy years of persistent youthfulness if not youth, he shall come back to us!

BACK TO THE EARLIER PHASE OF THE WAR

The warfare in France looks, every day, more as it did in the weeks from Liege to the Marne. Trenches were used at every opportunity in those first weeks; but the busy Germans in overwhelming strength didn't encourage their enemy to daily long in any particular trench. He was promptly shellied by enormously superior artillery, and then rushed out by similarly superior force of infantry. It was only after the battle at the Marne that an approximation to equilibrium was established, that made it possible and necessary for both sides to dig into the earth in a semi-permanent fashion.

As the earthworks developed into a great parallel line of trenches extending from the North Sea to the Swiss boundary, and as these were more and more highly organized for permanent occupation and insurance of the highest measure of safety to the occupants, the notion grew up that something like a deadlock had been established. It was common belief that neither side would ever be able to smash its way through the enemy's line upon line of these works.

But neither side really believed that. The Germans, having been successful time and again against powerfully fortified places, decided that they would smash through at Verdun and outflank the French lines of trenches. The French undertook, as their part in the allies' counter strategy, to hold the Germans at this point, by resorting to trenches for defense of their fortresses; while to the British was assigned the lead in the big task of crashing through the German trenches and forcing the fighting back into the open country once more. This accomplished, the allies designed, by dint of overwhelming numbers, to rush the Germans back through Belgium and northern France very much as, at the beginning, the Germans had crowded the allies back.

This program has now worked out so far that it is possible to discern that the war is entering on a new phase; really, that is by way of

a return to the first phase, highly modified of course. The superiority in numbers is now on the allies' side; likewise in artillery and ammunition. Once past, or safely broken through, the German network of defenses the allies will have the Germans in a position very like that which the French and British occupied after they had lost Liege and Maubeuge, and before they had checked the enemy at the Marne.

Can the allies hope to keep up the pace until they force their enemy back to the Rhine? Will the Rhine become, for the Germans, the scene of the last desperate counter attack, as the Marne was for the French and British? The war is a long way from assurance of such a complete reversal of form. It will take months of steady smashing ahead, before the allies can hope to achieve such a situation. Yet it is plainly what they seek, and their daily performance shows that the return to the days of open country war are fast returning.

THAT CANADIAN "LOBBY"

It is good to know that the Senate lobby committee has decided to wait until after election before it starts its investigation of charges that Canadian officials and the British embassy lobbied to influence legislation in Washington. At least, foolish as is the whole proceeding, there will be less incentive to play politics with it than there would be before election.

A few years ago the United States and Canada were discussing a reciprocity program, and the President of the United States indulged the expression of his hope that this arrangement would "make Canada an adjunct to the United States." One wonders what sort of a lobby committee would be set at work if the premier of Canada should write that sort of a purpose into a letter regarding relations with the United States. Also, there was the famous expression of Speaker Clark, apropos that same reciprocity proposal, that was credited with arousing great hostility in Canada.

If Canadian officials communicated with American officials concerning legislation of concern to both countries, what of it? Didn't they have as much right to do it as a branch of our Congress had to attempt interference with the Casement case? In England folks merely smiled at that manifestation of characteristically American officiousness. In Canada, we trust, the sense of humor will be equally fortified to resist an excusable disposition to disgust over a "lobby investigation," after Congress was able to swallow the performances of Teutonic propagandists for many months after the war started.

THE FOREIGN TRADE SHOWING

For seven months of the current calendar year the aggregate imports and exports of this country were \$4,394,000,000; a total that passes understanding, and that signifies only by comparison with trade records of other periods. It is an increase of \$1,500,000,000 over the same returns for the previous year. There was a gain of almost a billion dollars in exports, and of almost a half billion in imports.

Our foreign trade for the first half of this year was just about equal to our foreign trade for the entire year 1914. In the first seven months of this year exports aggregated \$2,926,000,000, and imports \$1,567,000,000. On this basis, the favorable balance of trade for the full year may be expected to reach easily \$2,500,000,000, and possibly even \$3,000,000,000. The significance of these figures, again, can be realized only by comparing them with the returns for other years. In 1908, the year when our favorable trade balance was greatest prior to the war, it was \$666,000,000.

Our imports are indeed growing fast; but they have failed utterly, despite all our alleged extravagances, despite all the temptations to indulgences, to keep pace with exports. The insistence of Europe on buying what we have and it needs, is what makes the situation that the figures show.

When the time comes for Europe to insist on selling, just as vigorously as it now insists on buying; when Europe is able to urge that she owes us debts that she can only pay in her products—then how long will it require for the tide to be turned? The very immensity of the present export traffic is the assurance that it cannot continue indefinitely. The world couldn't pay the bills; we should presently have all its money and all its liquid assets other than money.

The figures of foreign trade are, of course, not quite fairly representative, because they are given in money instead of units of goods. Prices are high; two bushels of wheat at \$1.50 means, in money, the equivalent to three at \$1, and of four at 75 cents; and 75 cents is probably nearer to the producer's average price than even \$1, in normal conditions. So the calculations do not give a very accurate idea of Europe's capacity to absorb our goods, even under present conditions of extreme necessity. When prices go down after our production has been keyed up very high and demand

goes down with the prices, then will come to determination whether the spasm of tremendous prosperity has been advantageous in whole or only in part. Then, too, will be the time when the best business and statesmanly capacity the country can command will be needed at the helm of the ship of state.

A TEUTON OFFENSIVE IN THE BALKANS

Rome, which has ways of getting information from Germany and concerning the Balkans that is apt to be worth while, reports that the recent council of the Teutonic leaders determined on another clean-up campaign in the Balkans. Germany is to send 200,000 and Austria 100,000 troops to take part; Roumania is to be given the same treatment that Serbia got, and the allied forces in Macedonia are to be wiped out. Cooperation with Bulgaria and Turkey, with this new force and the German and Austrian troops now in the near eastern area, is expected to insure a satisfactory result of the campaign.

That the western powers anticipate the serious possibility of such an enterprise is indicated by some things that come from them. Italy is sending large forces to France; the reports say that 250,000 troops will ultimately go there. This does not necessarily mean that Italy will be seriously weakened at home, for the kingdom actually has more soldiers than she can effectively use in the narrow field of operations around the head of the Adriatic. Portugal, it is further alleged, is to contribute troops to the allies' western line.

That Italy should be sending a great force to France, while Italy's prime interests are in the eastern and middle Mediterranean, suggests the allies' confidence that Greece will before long be in the war, and able to contribute a force that could not be utilized in any other area. So the allies are evidently making their dispositions with the purpose of holding their enemy in the Levantine area and at the same time maintaining their overwhelming superiority of numbers in the west. The Teuton general staff will not be permitted, this time, to shunt a few army divisions from one front to another, secure in the feeling that the fighting will be where they want it.

If Germany is able to send 200,000 troops to the Balkans in addition to what she already is maintaining in that area, she will demonstrate the possession of reserves that latterly have not been credited to her. It is not at all apparent whence such a force is to come. Troops from the Verdun sector have several times been encountered by the allies on the Somme front of late, indicating that the offensive at Verdun has become less absorbing to the German staff than the defensive at the Somme; and for very obvious reasons.

All in all it is quite likely that intimations about a great offensive in the Balkans are emitted from Berlin for political effect. That they come through Rome adds to the probability of this political motive. If Italian troops are already on the fighting line in France, Germany might very well calculate that the way to keep Italy from sending more would be to threaten a great aggressive campaign that would menace everything east of the Adriatic, so vital to Italy. Similarly, Greece might be admonished to hesitate yet longer before plunging into the war.

The news, the fighting, the internal developments, the dynamic complications in the Balkans have all been primarily political. They still are political. Both sides are playing for position, for preparedness, for the great struggle that will after all determine the greater results of the war.

France is saved, already. Belgium is certain to be restored. But the fate of the Near East yet hangs in the balance, and the Teutonic forces might yet come out of the war with credit and some large advantages if they could establish their dominance in the Balkans. It is there that they must make their desperate effort to establish something like equality of terms with their adversaries. Their greatest chance to sow dissension among their enemies is in the hinterland of Constantinople; and they know it. The allies can agree easily enough about Belgium and France, in the peace settlement; they might be led into a frightful mistake, a hopeless tangle of conflicting interests and ambitions, in the Near East. Out of that complexity Germany and Austria may see their chance to escape with better terms than otherwise would be possible. Bismarck managed once to dominate a very bad job of carving up the Balkan peninsula, and Bismarckian notions about that situation seem to prevail now in Germany.

Collins Has \$10,000 To Bet on Whitman

NEW YORK, Sept. 15.—Rensselaer county Republican, under the leadership of Cornelius V. Collins, have put up a pool of \$10,000 that Governor Whitman will be re-elected. Anybody who desires to cover this will be accommodated at Republican State headquarters. Even money is offered that Whitman will defeat Seabury in the Progressive primaries.

Winnie's Credit

A Conversationalist.
A stranger came to me:
He was a pleasant man;
He had, for sale, insurance
On the endowment plan.
He started conversation.
And started with a vim,
I never heard a fellow who
Could hold a torch to him.
He argued all the morning
And didn't get the hunch
When I got up and left him
And went out to my lunch.
When I got back I found him
Still talking "Twenty-two"—
I do not think that
That I had been away.
I kept right at my business
Till duty evicted him.
But he did not desert me;
He sat right by my side.
I left him there still talking
I turned out the light
And started home to dinner.
I guess he talked all night.
—Roy K. Moulton, in Oakland Enquirer.

They say a drop of printer's ink
Will make a million people think.
It took four drops to print this verse:
Four million people is not so worse!
—V. S. H.

A b
Flu
C
And left his yf behind;
To strive
Around the hive
With others of her kind.
JOHN ANSCHUTZ.

If everybody would finish what
he starts, not so many things
would be started.

Gabby Clothes.

I've often heard of loud suits, in fact,
I've worn them in my day, but this
padding from the media Capiti
duces us to the first one that actually
spoke:
BRIDE OF 3 DAYS KISSED DENTIST,
SAYS MAN'S SUIT.
—St. Louis Star.

A Grace for Winter.

A smiling face may winter wear.
With nights of song and laughter.
Lord, keep us near the fire here,
And far away hereafter.
—Frank Stanton, in Atlanta Constitution.

A Beggar Woman's Plait.

A writer walked reflectively
Along a great highway
He heard a beggar woman's plait—
She seemed to dim his day:
A haggard face, a withered form—
Almost too weak to stand;
She begged of all who passed to buy
The pencils in her hand.

The writer paused and mused a space,
Concerning Poverty:
How pencils helped him win his way
To wealth and luxury.
He bought her pencils—charity—
Her words he wrote to fame:
Her bitter story brought him gold—
Art rested on her shame.
STELLA V. K.

We are feeling PROUD this week, because we BOUGHT A NEW hat a couple of DAYS AGO, and everybody IS LOOKING at us as we WEND DOWN TOWN, we don't mind SAYING THAT it is a green HAT, and we have ONLY SEEN one like it IN WASHINGTON, this, we believe, IS SOME RECORD, it is SOME HAT.
G. F. M.

Times Mail Bag

Housewife Finds Bread Loaf Now Weighs Only Eleven Ounces.
To the Editor of THE TIMES:
It would be interesting to know what would be the price of a 6-cent loaf, as from what I read in THE TIMES I see the loaf is selling by some bakers at fourteen ounces.

"Now that we weighed my bread since a year ago, and it never has weighed more than twelve ounces, and in this week, I weighed it, and it weighed eleven, and eleven and one-half ounces, and fresh bread, too, but not hot."
S. A. C.
Washington, Sept. 14, 1916.

The Times Editorial on the Threatened Strike Wins Approval of One of Washington's Long-Time Residents.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:
The editorial on the threatened strike situation and the responsibility for the serious condition then and today was, indeed, the most patriotic, truthful statement and criticism that I have seen in any Washington paper during my residence of thirty-three years in the city.

I am a legal citizen of Colorado, but have never been able to have even a brief word in the public press reflecting on the shortcomings of the District or national authorities, but your splendid 42-centimeter shot encourages me.

Six years ago we bought an ideal home on Meridian Hill. Today we have the first concrete sign of the final stage of the District Board and securing our long hoped-for park. September 2, 1916, we bought an automobile, and today we are in the same predicament, but could not without paying a robber license which we were not willing to do.

Even the Roosevelt fair and visit friends at Sandy Springs, I made another appeal the other day for a permit and today we are in the same predicament, but could not without paying a robber license which we were not willing to do.

There is, at the present time, nothing known that will prevent or cure this terrible disease, and it would be almost suicidal to allow several thousand children to congregate in the schools where even one case might cause an epidemic which could not be controlled.

Marshall's shafts at G. O. P. Policies

The one bright, peaceful spot under the sun this day is America, and it is so because the President pleads guilty to the charge of using words rather than shot and shell and shrapnel.

The judgment of the American people is not to make a martyr of the man who brooded over the republic in storm-strewn times and by mere words spoke peace to the troubled seas of international politics.

What must we do to be saved? Trust the Republican leadership to answer that the entrails have disclosed that common prudence dictates raising tariff duties, so as to prevent the dumping of pauper-made, cripple-made, and orphan-made goods upon our market to the detriment of the American working-man and that while doing this we should go out and pre-empt the markets of the world.

How, if it be necessary to protect our workmen, we can capture against these pauper-cripple-orphan-made goods the markets of the world, where they may freely enter, eludes the understanding of every intellect save those who blindly worship the Baal of Protection.

But the Democratic party is a growing-a progressive party. It waxes its ancient views as to a tariff commission, now that the tariff is the only thing that has been made to bear its full proportion of the burdens of government, and it proposes to ascertain the real purchasing difference between the wages here and abroad, and to put that difference into the tariff schedule, if needed, which will not have been made by the manufacturer agrees that the difference shall go into the pay envelope and not into dividends.

NATION HUMILIATED, T. R. URGES MOOSE TO BEAT SEABURY

Congressman Declares Eight-Hour Law Low-Water Mark in National Honor.

NEW YORK, Sept. 15.—Colonel Roosevelt has issued a call to Bull Moose to defeat Samuel Seabury for the gubernatorial nomination at next Tuesday's primaries.

Chairman George W. Perkins, of the Progressive National Executive Committee called upon the 47,000 enrolled Progressives to nominate Governor Whitman.

The Roosevelt statement follows: "Colonel Roosevelt has expressly authorized me to say that he is not supporting Justice Seabury in the Progressive primaries. On the contrary, Mr. Roosevelt has stated explicitly to the Progressives who have asked him to support Justice Seabury that he would not do so, because Mr. Seabury is supporting Mr. Wilson and is running on the same ticket with Mr. Wilson, and, therefore, doing all in his power to bring about the re-election of Mr. Wilson."

"Mr. Roosevelt would regard this as a disastrous calamity to the country, and he therefore believes that no Progressive should support Mr. Seabury in the Progressive primaries next Tuesday."

The appeal of Perkins says: "I am for Whitman in our primaries. I am for him for two reasons. 'First, I am familiar with his record, and I believe it to be one that entitles him to our support. The alternative of a return of Tammany to power at Albany is too repugnant to be tolerated.'"

"The record of the years immediately preceding Governor Whitman is yet too fresh in our memories to be overlooked. Justice Seabury, independent of Tammany, defiant of Tammany, is one proposition; but Justice Seabury, the candidate of Tammany, stands before us in quite a different light."

"Justice Seabury has entered the Progressive primaries against Mr. Whitman on the theory that his own personal record is the test that voters should apply to his candidacy. I cannot believe that is the test, for he is Tammany's nominee. As Tammany's nominee and not as plain Mr. Seabury, he asks for Progressive indorsement."

CLAIM PROGRESS IN FIGHT ON WILSON

Officials of the national headquarters of the Congressional Union for Women's Suffrage profess to have encouraging reports concerning growth of the Woman's party in its fight against re-election of President Wilson.

From Western States, they say, reports show that the women voters are up in arms against the President for his fight against the Federal suffrage amendment. It is claimed that the Woman's party is making considerable headway in California, Illinois, Arizona, Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah.

New U. S. S. Pennsylvania Sets New Gunny Mark

The new superdreadnaught Pennsylvania is given credit for a new naval gunnery record by making five hits at eleven miles in the simultaneous discharge of its main battery of twelve fourteen-inch guns. The Pennsylvania's main battery is the first to be mounted on three gun turrets. Its success in target trials is taken by naval officials to be the final answer to critics of the three-gun turret system.

ROOSEVELT ASKED TO TOUR FAR WEST

Is Certain to Visit Middle States and May Go to Pacific Coast.

NEW YORK, Sept. 15.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt is considering a plan laid before him by Republican leaders of a campaign trip that will take him as far West as the Pacific coast.

It will be a week or more before a definite decision is arrived at regarding this matter, depending largely on the political agencies that develop as a result of some investigations now being made.

An alternative proposition being discussed is for the Colonel to make stops through the middle States, swinging up for one or more speeches in the Northwest and coming back by way of Missouri and Kentucky.

Indications seem to favor the Pacific coast trip. It is the California situation which is likely to take Colonel Roosevelt there. Republicans have not any doubt that California is a Republican State this year. Nevertheless, there is a feeling that a visit there by Colonel Roosevelt to speak in advocacy of Hiram Johnson's election to the state on the Republican ticket would have a mighty good effect on Progressives.

Governor Johnson in Harmony. There have been reports that Johnson had been feeling aggrieved since the Hughes trip through the State because of some kind words Mr. Hughes said regarding the "regular" crowd there opposing him, the Progressive, in the primaries.

Since then, however, assurances have come that Governor Johnson is working for the whole ticket. But the Democrats ever since this incident have been making loud claims that Johnson had been industriously circulating the reports of Progressive disaffection in neighboring States, as well. It is the feeling that Johnson's trip to California by Colonel Roosevelt would easily overcome that.

Appeals for Colonel Roosevelt's presence in many parts of the country continue to pour into Republican headquarters here. They have multiplied since the Maine result, many believing the Colonel clinched Republican chances there by his Lewiston speech. More than twenty big cities have put in a bid for Roosevelt speeches.

Colonel Roosevelt is still under the impression that anything like a real campaign trip on his part might detract from Mr. Hughes' trips or be construed by some as a desire on his part to vie with the candidate for spotlight honors.

Only in Doubtful States. In accordance with his own wishes, if he goes to the Pacific coast the trip will be made on regular trains with stops only at important cities in doubtful States.

Colorado is one of these, and there have been indications of a Democratic sweep there. But even traveling on regular trains those familiar with the Roosevelt party of campaigning know that a change of energies would offer vote-getting possibilities which Roosevelt would not let go by.

That Colonel Roosevelt intends to let no opportunity escape to congratulate those Progressives who come out on top in Republican primaries was indicated yesterday in his parting remarks addressed to Senator Polk, victor in the Washington primaries. It read: "Heartiest congratulations on your splendid victory. I believe in your success and the result in Maine are certainly good omen."

Believes Party Reunited. Conferences which Colonel Roosevelt had in this city with Chairman Wilcox, George W. Perkins, Charles J. Bonaparte, and others developed the fact that Roosevelt's whole heart is in the fight on regular lines, he is thoroughly convinced that the party is practically reunited. But he believes that some hard work must be done, particularly in the Middle and Western States, in combating the "Wilson-kept-us-out-of-the-war" sentiment.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON TODAY

Today. Exhibit of Industrial work, Georgetown playgrounds, all day.
Meeting, Wilson and Marshall Democratic Association, New Exhibit, 2:15 and 3:15 p. m.
Closing of Market, 2:15 and 3:15 p. m.
Meeting, Kallipolis Grotto, New Willard, 3 p. m.
Carnival, auspices North Carolina Avenue Methodist Protestant Church, Ninth street, between B and C streets southeast, 3 p. m.
Mass meeting to further movement for memorial to colored soldiers, John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church, 8 p. m.
Address, Miss Elizabeth Freeman at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, 8 p. m.
National Colonial Race, Colored Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 10 a. m.
Concert, United States Soldiers' Home Band, 10:15 p. m.
Masonic-Lehannon, No. 7.
Ode Fellowship, Metropolitan, No. 16; Phoenix, No. 21; Central, No. 11; Miriam, No. 6; of the Rebekahs.
Knights of Pythias-Syracusan, No. 19; Rebekahs, Temple, No. 8, of the Pythian Sisters.

Amusements. Belasco—"Ramon," 2:15 and 8 p. m.
Keith's-Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Follies—"For the Man She Loved," 8:15 p. m.
Gayety-Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Loew's-Columbia-Photoplay, 10:10 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Gaiety-Continuous motion pictures, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Strand-Continuous motion pictures, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Lyceum-Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Tomorrow.

Boy Scout contests, East Potomac Park, 10 a. m.
Meeting, National Women's Hughes-Palmer League, residence of Mrs. Bill Lehigh, president, 8 p. m.
Police athletic games, American League Park.
Howard University registrations for school term, 9 a. m.
Examination, out-of-town applicants for admission to District High Schools, Franklin School, beginning 9 a. m.
Meeting, Canton Washington Lodge No. 1, Patriarchs Militant of the Old Fellows.

Driver, Attacked by Bees, Jumps in Well; Breaks Leg

ROXANA, Del., Sept. 15.—A swarm of bees struck a horse driven by Asher Iaham near Roxana, and after nearly killing the horse attacked the driver. In his efforts to get rid of them Iaham finally jumped down an open well, breaking his leg. Iaham says he would have been killed had he stayed in the carriage.